



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2015

100 BEST W!SE HIGH SCHOOLS TEACHING PERSONAL FINANCE RANKINGS ANNOUNCED

- Third annual event marks the 13th anniversary of the national Working in Support of Education (w!se) Financial Literacy Certification Program
- Schools in 40 states now participating, up from 34 in prior year
- Aviation High School in Queens, New York ranked No.1
- Students from the top ranked schools attend ceremony hosted by the New York Stock Exchange
- Average passing rate was 77 percent for all participating schools

NEW YORK – April 20, 2015 – Working in Support of Education (w!se), a New York City based, national educational not-for-profit, today announced its third annual “100 Best w!se High Schools Teaching Personal Finance” national ranking during a ceremony sponsored by Voya Financial® at the New York Stock Exchange. This year, for the first time, w!se also released rankings of the top ten small, midsize and large high schools within its network.

The announcement marks the 13th anniversary of the w!se Financial Literacy Certification Program. Schools in 40 states participated in the certification program, up from 34 in the prior year. The award-winning program provides teachers with a curriculum and instructional resources to teach personal finance and measure students’ financial literacy through w!se’s Certification Test. Students who pass the test are designated Certified Financially Literate™. Since its introduction, the program has become an integral tool to teach personal finance in thousands of classrooms across the United States.

The 100 Best w!se High Schools Teaching Personal Finance recognizes the top performing high schools in w!se’s national network. The No.1 ranked school for 2015 is Aviation High School in Queens, New York. Other high schools among the top 30 are situated in New Jersey, Utah, Illinois, New York, Virginia and Nebraska. The schools were honored with banners as well as a trophy for the No. 1 ranked school at a ceremony, which included the following:

- Sam Stovall, Managing Director, U.S. Equity Strategist for S&P Capital IQ
- Amy Springsteel, Director, Corporate Responsibility, Voya Financial
- Phyllis Frankfort Perillo, Founding President and CEO, Working in Support of Education (w!se)
- Tom Farley, President, New York Stock Exchange
- Steve Wheeler, Director, New York Stock Exchange
- Gretchen Goodall, Managing Director, Citi Institutional Clients Group/KYC Control Unit
- Taylor Smith, Partner and Managing Director, Boston Consulting Group
- Charlotte Frank, Ph.D., Senior Advisor Research and Development, McGraw Hill Education
- James Abry, CFO, SCP Worldwide and CFO/Managing Director, Checketts Partners Investment Management
- Bruce Kasman, Ph.D., Chief Economist, J.P. Morgan
- Sharon Epperson, Senior Personal Finance Correspondent, CNBC

The 100 Best w!se High Schools Teaching Personal Finance ranking seeks to shine the spotlight on the importance of personal finance education. Only 17 states require personal finance instruction in high school.

The level of financial literacy is particularly acute among people with no post-secondary education and with incomes below \$25,000. According to the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, Hispanics and African Americans are disproportionately represented in these education and income segments and are especially vulnerable. Retirement readiness is also a major issue.

“It is in our national interest to address the chronic lack of financial literacy among young people,” said Phyllis Frankfort Perillo, Founding President & CEO of w!se. “The schools – and their students – on our 100 Best ranking are examples for their peers and the country. These students are now empowered with skills, knowledge and behaviors critical for a life of financial wellbeing.”

“We believe that individuals need to be empowered to better understand and take control of their finances, so we’re proud to support w!se in its mission to advance financial literacy in high schools across the country,” said Amy Springsteel, Director of Corporate Responsibility for Voya Financial, sponsor of this year’s ranking and ceremony. “Congratulations to this year’s winners on completing your certification and taking an important step toward building a secure and rewarding future.”

“The w!se program is tremendously valuable to young students. It helps us approach our finances proactively and it helps us to know what to do and what to expect early in our experience with money rather than having to approach our finances reactively by trying to figure out how we got into debt and how to get out of it,” said a student from Chicago.

w!se determined the 2015 ranking with support from an Advisory Board of experts from academia and finance. The predominant factor was the average score on the Financial Literacy Certification Test with consideration given to eligibility for free lunch and the proportion of test takers to the school population.

The Financial Literacy Certification Program now includes more than 3.5 million hours of instruction in participating high schools annually. The average passing rate was 77 percent in 2014 for students at schools participating in the certification program. All schools participating in the Financial Literacy Certification Program have an opportunity to earn a place on the “100 Best” list each year.

For more information about w!se, contact [info\(at\)wise-ny\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)wise-ny(dot)org), or visit the [program website](#) for the most recent program news and updates.

About Working In Support of Education (w!se)

Working In Support of Education (w!se) is a national not-for-profit dedicated to improving the lives of young people through programs that develop financial literacy and readiness for college and the workforce. Our Initiatives are built on five pillars – relevancy, real world experiences, strong partnerships, volunteerism, and evaluation. The standardized w!se Financial Literacy Certification Test is administered by schools participating in the Financial Literacy Certification Program to measure knowledge, skills and behavioral changes in students after a unit or course on personal finance. For more information, visit wise-ny.org. Follow w!se on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@wisewyork](#).

About Voya Financial®

Voya Financial, Inc. (NYSE: VOYA), is composed of premier retirement, investment and insurance companies serving the financial needs of approximately 13 million individual and institutional customers in the United States. The company’s vision is to be America’s Retirement Company™ and its guiding principle is centered on solving the most daunting financial challenge facing Americans today — retirement readiness. Working directly with clients and through a broad group of financial intermediaries, independent producers, affiliated advisors and dedicated sales specialists, Voya provides a comprehensive portfolio of asset

accumulation, asset protection and asset distribution products and services. With a dedicated workforce of approximately 6,500 employees, Voya is grounded in a clear mission to make a secure financial future possible — one person, one family, one institution at a time. For more information, visit voya.com or view our [Voya Financial Interactive Company Profile](#). Follow Voya Financial on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@Voya](#).

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Ranking of Schools I-30

- 1 **Aviation HS**, *Long Island City - NY*
- 2 **Passaic County Technical Institute**, *Wayne - NJ*
- 3 **Queens HS for the Sciences**, *Jamaica - NY*
- 4 **Utah County Academy of Science**, *Orem - UT*
- 5 **High Technology HS**, *Lincroft - NJ*
- 6 **Richards Career Academy**, *Chicago - IL*
- 7 **HS for Math, Science & Engineering at CCNY**, *New York - NY*
- 8 **Biotechnology HS**, *Freehold - NJ*
- 9 **Craig County HS**, *New Castle - VA*
- 10 **G.W. Carver HS for Sciences**, *Springfield Gardens - NY*
- 11 **Lincoln Northeast HS**, *Lincoln - NE*
- 12 **Canajoharie HS**, *Canajoharie - NY*
- 13 **Stuyvesant HS**, *New York - NY*
- 14 **Holston HS**, *Damascus - VA*
- 15 **Eleanor Roosevelt HS**, *New York - NY*
- 16 **Wausa Public School**, *Wausa - NE*
- 17 **Townsend Harris HS**, *Flushing - NY*
- 18 **Bergenfield HS**, *Bergenfield - NJ*
- 19 **Richmond Community HS**, *Richmond - VA*
- 20 **Abingdon HS**, *Abingdon - VA*
- 21 **Gretna HS**, *Gretna - VA*
- 22 **Galileo HS**, *Danville - VA*
- 23 **Queens Gateway to Health Sciences**, *Queens - NY*
- 24 **Central Magnet School**, *Murfreesboro - TN*
- 25 **Coeur d'Alene HS**, *Coeur d'Alene - ID*
- 26 **Houston County HS**, *Erin - TN*
- 27 **Nicolet HS**, *Glendale - WI*
- 28 **Mathews HS**, *Mathews - VA*
- 29 **Patrick Henry HS**, *Glade Spring - VA*
- 30 **John Burton HS**, *Norton - VA*

This national ranking is determined with support from an Advisory Board of experts from academia and finance. The predominant factor was the average score on the Financial Literacy Certification Test with consideration given to eligibility for free lunch and the proportion of test takers to the school population.

100 Best w!se High Schools Teaching Personal Finance

Ranking of Schools 31-100*

Alexander Central HS <i>Taylorsville - NC</i>	Grassfield HS <i>Chesapeake - VA</i>	Perryville HS <i>Perryville - AR</i>
Benjamin N. Cardozo HS <i>Bayside - NY</i>	Halifax County HS <i>South Boston - VA</i>	Pike County HS <i>Brundidge - AL</i>
Best Academy HS <i>Atlanta - GA</i>	Haysi HS <i>Haysi - VA</i>	Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK HS <i>Plainview - NY</i>
Big Foot HS <i>Walworth - WI</i>	HS of Law & Public Service <i>New York - NY</i>	Rappahannock HS <i>Warsaw - VA</i>
Box Elder HS <i>Brigham City - UT</i>	Honaker HS <i>Honaker - VA</i>	Riverheads HS <i>Staunton - VA</i>
Catoosa HS <i>Catoosa - OK</i>	Indian Hills HS <i>Oakland - NJ</i>	Roslyn HS <i>Roslyn Heights - NY</i>
Central HS <i>Wise - VA</i>	Irondequoit HS <i>Rochester - NY</i>	Shenendehowa HS <i>Clifton Park - NY</i>
Chantilly HS <i>Chantilly - VA</i>	Itineris Early College HS <i>West Jordan - UT</i>	South Lakes HS <i>Reston - VA</i>
Chittenango HS <i>Chittenango - NY</i>	James Madison HS <i>Vienna - VA</i>	Southold HS <i>Southold - NY</i>
Churchville Chili HS <i>Churchville - NY</i>	John Champe HS <i>Aldie - VA</i>	Staples HS <i>Westport - CT</i>
Conestoga Valley HS <i>Lancaster - PA</i>	John Handley HS <i>Winchester - VA</i>	Sullivan West Central School <i>Lake Huntington - NY</i>
Conrad HS <i>Conrad - MT</i>	Leon M. Goldstein HS <i>Brooklyn - NY</i>	Tri County HS <i>DeWitt - NE</i>
Council HS <i>Honaker - VA</i>	Lexington Technology Center <i>Lexington - SC</i>	Twin Falls HS <i>Twin Falls - ID</i>
Dan River HS <i>Ringgold - VA</i>	Loudoun County HS <i>Leesburg - VA</i>	Union HS <i>Big Stone Gap - VA</i>
Dominion HS <i>Sterling - VA</i>	Marcellus HS <i>Marcellus - NY</i>	Viewmont HS <i>Bountiful - UT</i>
Eastern View HS <i>Culpeper - VA</i>	Mat-Su Career and Technical HS <i>Wasilla - AK</i>	Village School of Great Neck <i>Great Neck - NY</i>
Elizabeth HS <i>Elizabeth - NJ</i>	Mountain HS <i>Kaysville - UT</i>	Virginia HS <i>Bristol - VA</i>
Ellicottville Central School <i>Ellicottville - NY</i>	Mountain View HS <i>Centerville - VA</i>	Waterford-Halfmoon Jr./Sr. HS <i>Waterford - NY</i>
Fillmore Central HS <i>Geneva - NE</i>	Mountain View HS <i>Mountain View - WY</i>	Waynesboro HS <i>Waynesboro - VA</i>
Fort Defiance HS <i>Fort Defiance - VA</i>	New Paltz HS <i>New Paltz - NY</i>	West Forsyth HS <i>Clemmons - NC</i>
Frank W. Cox HS <i>Virginia Beach - VA</i>	Northumberland HS <i>Heathsville - VA</i>	West Point HS <i>West Point - VA</i>
Freedom HS <i>South Riding - VA</i>	Page County HS <i>Shenandoah - VA</i>	West Seneca West Senior HS <i>West Seneca - NY</i>
Garden City HS <i>Garden City - NY</i>	Patrick Henry HS <i>Roanoke - VA</i>	William Fleming HS <i>Roanoke - VA</i>
George W. Hewlett HS <i>Hewlett - NY</i>		

*Note: the rank order of schools ranked 31-100 is not being published.

Top Ten Small, Midsize and Large wise High Schools Teaching Personal Finance

Small

- 1 **Utah County Academy of Science**, *Orem - UT*
- 2 **Queens HS for the Sciences**, *Jamaica - NY*
- 3 **High Technology HS**, *Lincroft - NJ*
- 4 **Richards Career Academy**, *Chicago - IL*
- 5 **HS for Math, Science & Engineering at CCNY**, *New York - NY*
- 6 **Biotechnology HS**, *Freehold - NJ*
- 7 **Craig County HS**, *New Castle - VA*
- 8 **G.W. Carver HS for Sciences**, *Springfield Gardens - NY*
- 9 **Canajoharie HS**, *Canajoharie - NY*
- 10 **Holston HS**, *Damascus - VA*

Midsize

- 1 **Townsend Harris HS**, *Flushing - NY*
- 2 **Bergenfield HS**, *Bergenfield - NJ*
- 3 **Abingdon HS**, *Abingdon - VA*
- 4 **Queens Gateway to Health Sciences**, *Queens - NY*
- 5 **Central Magnet School**, *Murfreesboro - TN*
- 6 **Nicolet HS**, *Glendale - WI*
- 7 **Waynesboro HS**, *Waynesboro - VA*
- 8 **Leon M. Goldstein HS**, *Brooklyn - NY*
- 9 **Box Elder HS**, *Brigham City - UT*
- 10 **Chittenango HS**, *Chittenango - NY*

Large

- 1 **Aviation HS**, *Long Island City - NY*
- 2 **Passaic County Technical Institute**, *Wayne - NJ*
- 3 **Lincoln Northeast HS**, *Lincoln - NE*
- 4 **Stuyvesant HS**, *New York - NY*
- 5 **Coeur d'Alene HS**, *Coeur d'Alene - ID*
- 6 **West Forsyth HS**, *Clemmons - NC*
- 7 **Lexington Technology Center**, *Lexington - SC*
- 8 **Shenendehowa HS**, *Clifton Park - NY*
- 9 **Halifax County HS**, *South Boston - VA*
- 10 **Benjamin N. Cardozo HS**, *Bayside - NY*